

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, US, EAID, FT, XO, AO

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SIAD TO
PRESIDENT FORD

REF: STATE 18877 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY IS SUMMARY OF
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SIAD TO PRESIDENT FORD DATED
JANUARY 9, 1976.

2. SIAD FIRST ALLUDED TO HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT IN
OCTOBER 1974, AND REMARKED THAT IN SPITE OF SOME NEGATIVE
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND SOMALIA, THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN UNDER-
STANDING AND FOREBEARANCE ON BOTH SIDES. HE REPEATED THE
PARAGRAPH OF HIS LETTER OF JUNE 22, 1975, CITING NON-
ALIGNMENT AS A CARDINAL PRINCIPAL OF SOMALI POLICY, INSIS-
TING THAT THIS WIDENED THE SCOPE OF OPTIONS OPEN TO
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SOMALIA AND STRENGTHENED ITS SOVEREIGNTY, OPPOSING ANY

MILITARY BUILDUP AND CONDEMNING THE PRESENCE OF BASES AND MILITARY ARSENALS.

3. PRESIDENT SIAD THEN DISCUSSED THREE IMMEDIATE ISSUES:

A. CONCERNING "FRENCH SOMALILAND," HE STATED THAT HIS POLICY WAS TO URGE THE FREEDOM OF THAT TERRITORY WITHOUT CONDITIONS OR HINDRANCE FROM ANY DIRECTION; THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY ALONE SHOULD DECIDE THEIR FATE; THAT UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS FRANCE COULD BE EXPECTED TO ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SUCCESSOR STATE, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF TRUE INDEPENDENCE WERE THE LEADERS OF THE NEW STATE TO BE CHOSEN AUTOMATICALLY RATHER THAN BY A FREE ELECTION; THAT A MILITARY BASE IN DJIBOUTI WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH TRUE INDEPENDENCE. SIAD STATED THAT SOMALIA HAD ASSURED THE FRENCH PRESIDENT THAT SOMALIA WOULD "UNEQUIVOCALLY PROMOTE AND GUARANTEE ON OUR PART THAT THE NEW STATE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD AND ASSURE THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS WHICH LINK HER WITH OTHER STATES, WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THEIR VESTED VITAL NEEDS."

B. CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN, PRESIDENT SIAD STATED THAT SOMALIA SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE, AND SAID THAT HE OPPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY BASE OR "FORM OF ANY MACHINE WHICH CAUSES ONE OR OTHER OF THE GREAT POWERS TO COUNTERBALANCE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OR COMPETE IN STRATEGICAL OR TACTICAL FORMULA."

C. CONCERNING ANGOLA, PRESIDENT SIAD REPEATED THAT THE MPLA REPRESENTED THE MAJORITY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND HAD BEEN "HONORED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION," HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT FORD TO HELP CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE IN THAT COUNTRY.

4. PRESIDENT SIAD THEN DISCUSSED US/SOMALI RELATIONS AND SAID THAT DESPITE SOME ISOLATED PROBLEMS, "MUCH OF THE GLOOM HAD BEEN REMOVED" SINCE 1974. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS USED RESTRAINT AND "HAD DONE OUR LEVEL BEST TO REMOVE TRIP-WIRE OBSTACLES" TO BETTER RELATIONS.

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TIONS. HE THEN THANKED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR RESUMING AID TO SOMALIA, AND DISCUSSED THE GREAT PROBLEMS THAT REMAIN AFTER THE RECENT DROUGHT. FINALLY HE SAID THAT WHILE RESUMPTION OF AID HAD BEEN TIMELY, THE AMOUNT DID NOT MEET THE EXPECTATION OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE FOR SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE, AND HE HOPED THAT OUR COMMITMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN A NOMINAL ONE. HE CLOSED WITH NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.

5. FULL TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

6. YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS LETTER OR CONTENTS WITH GSDR
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE IS TRANSMITTED.
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